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FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



September 12, 2003

FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Abundant rainfall during August interrupted field activities with wet, muddy fields preventing the application of pesticides to some peanuts and cotton. Some peanuts developed severe cases of leaf spot and white mold. Digging of early maturing peanut varieties started in late August with some yields averaging below normal, especially in wetter areas. However, most peanuts were in good to excellent condition by early September with the maturation of most pods on schedule. The leaching of fertilizer along with the prevention of fertilizer applications caused some cotton to yellow and to stunt. Some cotton began to show blooms near the tops of plants in early September while other cotton plants showed open bolls. Cotton defoliation started in early September with most acreage expected to be ready for defoliation by early October. Flooding during early August damaged some nursery crops. Hay became over mature when growers could not cut, mow and bale fields with quality deteriorating. An increase in armyworm populations caused serious problems in some Bermuda hay fields. The rains slowed the harvesting of corn and Bahia seed. Producers in the Hastings area were plowing under cover crops and planting winter crop vegetables by the end of August.

PEANUTS: Yield is set at 2,900 pounds per acre, up 200 pounds from the August forecast and 600 pounds higher than the 2002 crop average. Acreage to be dug at 107,000 acres is unchanged from August but 21,000 acres above the acreage dug last year. Production is expected to total 310,300,000 pounds, 112,500,000 pounds or fifty-seven percent higher than the 197,800,000 pounds harvested in 2002.

SUGARCANE: Based on conditions existing as of September 1, producers indicated that they expect to harvest 441,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from the August forecast, but down 20,000 acres from last year. Yield is set at 40 tons per acre, up 3.5 tons from August and 1.7 tons from the 2002 yield. Production at 17,640,000 tons is up 1,580,000 tons or ten percent from August, but only 13,000 tons or less than one percent below last year.

TOBACCO: Growers expect to harvest 10,000,000 pounds, down 200,000 pounds or two percent from August and 1,593,000 pounds or 16 percent from last year. Yield is forecast at 2,500 pounds per acre, down 50 pounds from August and 100 pounds from the 2002 yield. Acreage harvested at 4,000 acres is unchanged from August but 600 acres below the 4,600 acres harvested last year.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.99 billion pounds up 1 percent from last month and up 20 percent from 2002. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.28 million acres, unchanged from August but 2 percent below the 2002 harvested acreage. Yields are expected to average a record high 3,121 pounds per acre, 19 pounds per acre above the August forecast and 560 pounds above the 2002 level. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.63 billion pounds, up 1 percent from August and up 38 percent from 2002. Expected acreage for harvest, at 849,000, is unchanged from August but up 8 percent from 2002. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 3,095 pounds per acre, 25 pounds above August and 662 pounds above last year. As of August 31, peanuts in Alabama were rated 73 percent good to excellent. Florida peanuts were rated 83 percent good to excellent, and Georgia peanuts were rated 78 percent good to excellent.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 36.1 million tons, 5 percent above the August 1 forecast and 1 percent above last year. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 996,000 acres for sugar and seed during the 2003 crop year, up fractionally from last month but 3 percent below last year's final harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 36.2 tons per acre, 1.5 tons above both the August forecast and 2002 estimate. Excellent moisture conditions in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas supported sugarcane growth. Florida and Louisiana expect higher yields than last year, while in Texas yields are down nearly 1 ton due to the crop being in the final year of its Ratoon cycle.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO: Production is expected to total 477 million pounds, 2 percent below last month and down 8 percent from 2002. Growers plan to harvest 239,000 acres in 2003, down 3 percent from last year. Yields are forecast to average 1,996 pounds per acre, 38 pounds below the August forecast and 109 pounds less than the previous year. In North Carolina's Old Belt and Border Belt regions, as well as in Virginia, yields are expected to decrease from the August forecast due to the negative impact of continued excess moisture. Poorly developed root systems, leaching of fertilizer, and increased incidence of disease are some of the problems reported. Blue mold has been observed in some fields in the Piedmont region of North Carolina.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 12.0 million acres, is

down 1 percent from August and 1 percent less than 2002. Based on administrative information, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina will have decreased harvested area compared to a month ago. California and Arkansas increased their harvested acreage from the previous month. In the Southeastern States, the maturity of the cotton crop was up to three weeks behind normal. The crop was in mostly good to excellent condition early in the month despite the wet conditions. Growers have some boll rot concerns due to the lack of sufficiently dry weather. By month's end, the crop condition had declined into mostly fair condition, but hot and humid weather allowed the crop to progress rapidly. Some stress occurred on late planted fields due to shallow root development.

CORN: Production is forecast at 9.94 billion bushels, down 1 percent from last month but 10 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 138.5 bushels per acre, down 1.4 bushels from August but up 8.5 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the second largest on record. The record for both was set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields are lower than last month across much of the Great Plains and northern Corn Belt as hot, dry conditions prevailed during most of August. However, yields are up in many Southeast and Atlantic Coastal States as adequate moisture was received and conditions were mostly favorable. Farmers expect to harvest 711.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 100,000 acres from August but up 4 percent from 2002.

SOYBEANS: Production is forecast at 2.64 billion bushels, down 8 percent from the August forecast and 3 percent below 2002. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 36.4 bushels per acre, down 3.0 bushels from August. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. High temperatures and moisture shortages stressed the soybean crop during the critical stages of development in the Great Plains and western Corn Belt during August. Forecast yields are down in the northern Great Plains and upper and middle Mississippi Valley due to extremely dry weather. However, yield prospects improved in the Ohio Valley, Delta States, Southeast, and Atlantic Coastal Plains due to mild temperatures and adequate moisture during August.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida
and United States as of September 1, 2003 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2002	For harvest 2003	2002	Indicated 2003		2002	Indicated 2003
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton ^{1/}	115	99	401	621 ^{2/}		96	128
Peanuts	86	107	2,300	2,900	Lbs.	197,800	310,300
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	6.7	5.8	265	235	Cwt	1,776	1,363
Spring ^{1/}	26.3	27.3	300	250	Cwt	7,883	6,825
Sugarcane	461	441	38.3	40.0	Ton	17,653	17,640
Tobacco, Type 14	4.6	4.0	2,600	2,500	Lbs.	11,960	10,000
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	69,313	71,815	130.0	138.5	Bu.	9,007,659	9,944,418
Cotton, all ^{3/}	12,426.6	12,192.4	665	667 ^{2/}		17,208.6	16,938.5
Hay, Alfalfa	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.31	Ton	73,824	77,952
Hay, all other	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	Ton	77,138	82,066
Peanuts for nuts	1,296.7	1,277.0	2,561	3,121	Lbs.	3,320,490	3,985,900
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{1/}	15.7	14.8	268	281	Cwt	4,206	4,153
Spring ^{1/}	86.1	82.9	271	269	Cwt	23,294	22,305
Summer	59.1	60.5	304	320	Cwt	17,985	19,360
Fall ^{4/}	1,109.4	1,093.4	373	^{5/}	Cwt	414,317	^{5/}
Rice ^{6/}	3,207	2,978	6,578	6,655 ^{7/}		210,960	198,174
Sorghum for grain	7,299	8,041	50.7	51.0	Bu.	369,758	410,145
Soybeans for beans	72,160	72,626	37.8	36.4	Bu.	2,729,709	2,642,644
Sugarbeets	1,361.1	1,348.1	20.4	22.8	Ton	27,718	30,673
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,023.2	996.0	34.7	36.2	Ton	35,553	36,064
Tobacco, All	428.7	413.7	2,055	2,008	Lbs.	880,734	830,771
Tobacco, Type 14	31.1	33.0	2,174	2,236	Lbs.	67,610	73,800
Wheat, all	45,817	52,677	35.3	43.5	Bu.	1,616,441	2,291,825
Winter	29,651	36,491	38.5	46.9	Bu.	1,142,802	1,712,150
Durum	2,703	2,738	29.4	31.9	Bu.	79,450	87,355
Other spring	13,463	13,448	29.3	36.6	Bu.	394,189	492,320

^{1/} Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.
^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales.
^{3/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton.
^{4/} 2002 crop revised.
^{5/} First forecast in November.
^{6/} Updated from "Acreage" released June 30,2003.
^{7/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.